



Cpl. Jeff M. Nagan

(Above) Capt Seong M. Brownell hands pencils to a local school girl during a school dedication in Assamo, Djibouti, yesterday. (Left) Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Chumbler, Djiboutian country desk noncommissioned officer in charge, also handed out pencils to local school children during the dedication.

Town celebrates renovations to school

CPL. JEFF M. NAGAN
THE HORN COURIER

ASSAMO, Djibouti – A rural community in the southern tip of Djibouti hosted a ceremony yesterday, commemorating the renovations of a local primary and secondary school.

A school in Assamo, Djibouti, was refurbished by Djiboutian contractors hired by Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, according to Chief Petty Officer Steven W. Metzger, engineer chief, CJTF-HOA engineering.

Contractors did rudimentary repairs to the school, which included patching the exterior, fixing the roof, and painting the interior and exterior. They also converted a building on the compound into a cafeteria and cooking area.

"We all want the same things in life – peace and a better life for our children," said Col. Craig S. Huddleston, CJTF-HOA chief of staff. "I hope this school benefits the children of this area."

Since many of the students are nomadic people, they don't stay more than a few weeks. However, the school provides residence and education for more than 75 students at one time, said Metzger.

"What the Americans have done is a very good thing," said Idriss Said Dalieh, a local resident with two children who attend the Assamo school. "We are very thankful and grateful for what they have done. We are going to explain to the children that this school wouldn't be what it is without the Americans."

It's not just the students who will benefit from the repairs, said Metzger. The teachers and the staff also have a better place, one that encourages learning and



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Upon arriving in Assamo, Djibouti yesterday, Col. Craig S. Huddleston, CJTF-HOA chief of staff, meets with local leaders, parents and children.

education.

"It's rewarding to be able to provide somewhere nice for the children to learn and go," Metzger said. "It provides a better learning environment and it provides the people with a positive view of Americans."

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Photo by: Sgt. Wayne Campbell

A member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 18, fast-ropes off of

a CH-53E Super Stallion during training Tuesday.

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